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SENATE REJECTS EFFORTS TO STRIKE ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION FROM 2004 BUDGET

WASHINGTON—The Senate continued debate today on the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2004, rejecting efforts to block job-creating provisions and increase taxes. Budget Committee Chairman Don Nickles also today re-affirmed his intention to stick to schedule and complete the resolution by week's end.

In the first two votes on the resolution, the Senate defeated amendments that would have prohibited or eliminated economic growth and job creation provisions in the budget. The first would have created a 60-vote procedural hurdle before the Senate could consider the President's economic growth package until the Administration provides a cost estimate on a war with Iraq.

Chairman Don Nickles on the amendment, "It's a serious mistake for Congress to limit itself based upon the actions of the Judicial and Executive Branches. It is restraining and short-sighted."

The second amendment would have eliminated all but a tiny portion of the tax cuts provided for in the Budget, and would have raised taxes in 2011.

Members of the Budget Committee continued to stress the need for economic growth and job creation

Sen. John Cornyn on the need for economic growth and spending control, "I believe that if we hold to our principles and our priorities, we can assure that the needs of the nation are met and help our economy grow. If we're successful, we can help prevent future generations from being saddled with the bill for excessive spending that some in this body seem determined to create."

Chairman Don Nickles on the need for economic growth, "A time of war I don't think is a time to be pulling back on the economy. I think it is a time to try and stimulate the economy."